

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 37, NO. 17
OCTOBER 1, 1982

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Up-and-Coming

The Club will be closed on Monday, October 11, which this year is officially celebrated as Columbus Day.

Tues. Oct. 12 - 5:30 pm - Columbus Day. Sherry Tasting, Cafe España, 314 E. 39 Street. Members \$4, guests \$5 - Please send checks in advance.

Wed. Oct. 13 - 5:30 pm - "Shop Talk" "Frankly Speaking," with two of the new owners of UPI. Len R. Small, chairman of the board, and Douglas Ruhe, managing director and chief executive officer. Members, no charge, guests \$3.

Thurs. Oct. 21 - 5:30 pm - "Shop Talk," "Watching the Watchdogs," panel on monitoring the press. Moderator: A.H. (Abe) Raskin, National News Council, associate director. Panelists: Louis Boccardi, A.P. vice president and executive editor; Dick Cunningham, National News Council, associate director; Robert McCloskey, *Washington Post* ombudsman; **George Watson**, ABC, vice president of news. Members, no charge, guests \$3.

Fri. Oct. 29 - 6 pm - Twilight Jazz: "A Jazz Salute to the Movie Composer." Featuring Warren Chaisson, vibraphone, with Warren Vache, Jr., trumpet, Derek Smith, piano, Leroy Williams, drums and Todd Coolman, bass. Admission \$5 - cash bar.

Reservations Required for ALL Programs.

Come for Sherry . . . Enjoy the Tapas

Latest news from the Casa España on East 39th Street is that authentic *tapas* will accompany the authentic Sherries being served on October 12th to honor Christopher Columbus on his day. *Tapas* derive from the Spanish word for "lid" or "cover," owing to the custom in Spain of serving tasty tidbits on a saucer atop a glass of Sherry. OPCers can follow the custom of Americans residing in Jerez de la Frontera and tapa-hop from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., prior to dinner.

— Reserve now!

Two Important Shoptalks On Tap This Month

New Command to Tell Development Plans For Revived UPI

Who are those masked men who saved UPI? And what will they do with it?

You'll get the answer at what promises to be a fascinating OPC Shop Talk on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Cocktails and conversation will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the speakers will be Doug Ruhe, president of Focus Communications, Nashville, and Len Small, editor and publisher of the *Daily Dispatch*, Moline, Ill., and vice president of the Small Newspaper Group.

They are the two principals of the Media News Corp. which on June 2 bought United Press International from the E.W. Scripps Co.

Ruhe, 38, has worked in communications for 13 years — as a reporter, in TV production, in PR and in satellite tele-conferences. He has an MA from the U of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Small, 39, worked as a reporter in Illinois and for UPI in London and Paris. The Small Newspaper Group includes seven dailies and three weeklies in the Midwest and California. He is a law graduate of the U of Illinois.

Reservations are advisable.

William J. Small has become president and chief operating officer of UPI. He had been president of NBC News, and had also been a CBS news executive. He will oversee all UPI news operations, involving some 2000 people serving more than 7,000 news organizations. Small is a former president of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists. He is the author of two books, "To Kill a Messenger: Television and the Real World," and "Political Power and the Press."

Press Watchdogs Ponder How to Keep The Press Honest

To paraphrase the Bible, "Newsman, heal thyself."

Or so it would seem as we read more and more about newspeople making news by making up news. To sum up the situation it seems to come down to editing and ethics. Jonathan Friendly, who covers media for *The New York Times*, says: "There are no universally accepted guides to journalistic rectitude that would make decisions simple."

As a result of all the professional clucking, Program Committee heads **Gloria Zukerman** and **George Krimsky** have invited a group of media ombudsmen to discuss the matter on Thursday, October 21. The cocktails and conversation will begin at 5:30 p.m. Call it "Watching the Watchdogs."

The panel moderator will be Abe Raskin, associate director of the National News Council and former labor correspondent for *The New York Times*. Panelists include Lou Boccardi, executive editor of AP; Dick Cunningham, associate director, National News Council; Robert McCloskey, ombudsman, *Washington Post*; and George Watson, ABC News vice president in charge of "Viewpoint," a quarterly broadcast of discussion taking issue with ABC's news coverage.

Possible questions:

Who should monitor the media? Itself? An independent organization? The public? The government?

What's with the First Amendment? Does it have teeth? Does it provide proper protection? Freedom?

Does TV journalism sail under different rules than print?

Take a line and add your own queries. But don't miss this volatile panel discussion.

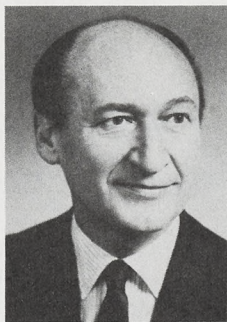
Meet and Hear These Press Leaders at This Month's Shoptalks



Len Small



Doug Ruhe



Abe Raskin



Louis Boccardi



Robert McCloskey



George Watson

Letters

Henry Gellermann droned away extensively in the *Bulletin* (Sept. 1) re: difficulties lining up keynote speakers for the Annual Awards Dinner. Anyone with a nodding acquaintance in news knows the problems.

Gellermann carries on re: "We are not financial writers; we are not drama critics nor cooking experts, etc." Wrong as can be. We are all of these. It is pretentious to presume the Overseas Press Club membership is composed today of globe-trotting correspondents à la our founding fathers. Having known a few of the originals, I believe that they, too, would go along with the old cliché, "time marches on."

In every area of journalism, human interest is the name of the game. As professionals, we are alert to the national-worldwide scene. Take mine - I am a jazz writer. Yes, I've served my "hard news" time here and abroad. Just this past week, serving as an international jazz editor, I have writers in correspondence from Poland, South Africa, and Holland.

For OPC to hang its hat on the romantic foreign correspondent is gone with the wind. As for future keynote international speakers we might dig back to the old *New Yorker* cartoon in a State Department setting. Cutline: "The question, gentlemen, is, should we send Dulles or Satchmo." At the next Awards Dinner should we have Schultz or Count Basie?

— Wilma Dobie

Another cheerful applauder of the club's dues increase is Col. Fred Elton Steele 3d, who writes from his base in Montpelier, Vt. — "Increase in dues a foregone conclusion cheerfully paid for full value received. Officers have every right to brag about keeping lid on so long." Thank you, sir!

Moscow Can Be a (Bad) Dream Assignment

Despite its problems and even its perils, the Moscow assignment is still one of the best an American newsman can have.

Thus spake Andrew Nagorski to an OPC audience Sept. 7, after he had been expelled from the Soviet Union, where he had been *Newsweek's* correspondent for 14 months.

Among the perils is the constant surveillance, he said, which is not so much to intimidate you as it is to scare Russians who might be tempted to speak to you. Much of your concern for your own safety, he said, is concern over the safety of your associates.

Moscow is an emotional place, he said, where what you do can have an impact on people's lives. So you have to play the game according to the rules.

Obstacles to good reporting, he said, are constantly being put in the correspondent's way in the shape of rumors and disinformation. It is impossible to tell what is true and what not and the competitive pressure whether to go with a story or not is great.

The pressure was especially great, he said, during the time rumors abounded about Brezhnev's health, even his death. The disinformation in this case, he said, was intended to discredit the Western press.

The Russians, he said, live in great fear of war and they regard President Reagan as the enemy. One reason for this is that most Russians have access only to information that comes from their Government. But many Russians, especially the intellectuals and the young people captivated by Western music, literature and lifestyles, do get some of their information from the BBC and the Voice of America.

One big need for the U.S., he said, is to have better correspondents in Russia. Too many of them now do not have enough knowledge of the language, which cripples them. This is probably the major failure, he said, of the U.S. press.

Intimidation of correspondents, in Nagorski's opinion, is greater now. A big question is whether the situation will get better or worse after Brezhnev.

Nagorski is the winner of two OPC awards, one for a story from Africa and one for a story from Japan.

'Read Playboy, Chase Girls, Stay Young'

A few notes from OPCer Dr. Henry A. Singer, executive director of the Human Resources Institute, after attending the 90th annual convention of the American Psychological Association - some 15,000 pros in attendance out of some 55,000 members:

- "The media tend disproportionately to play up the lurid and bizarre for visceral impact rather than cerebral reflection."

- "B.F. Skinner, dean of the profession at 78, recommended more sensual interests for the older professional . . . watching Archie Bunker, reading detective stories and even

Playboy, rather than playing chess. It reminded of the old burlesque one-liner, "I keep chasing girls, but I forget what for."

- "Since a larger segment of the population is living longer, interest in aging was prevalent. One study showed that older people who experience time as flying were less depressed, felt more in control of their lives, had subjectively more meaningful experiences and perceived themselves as younger than those with 'time on their hands'. A strong motivation for some of the OPC old-timers to lend a hand and expand the OPC."

Sonia Tomara Clark

Sonia Tomara Clark, foreign correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* from 1928 to 1947 and a long-time member of the OPC, died September 7 at Princeton Medical Center following a stroke. She was 85 years of age, and had made her home in Princeton with her sister, Irina Tomara, who survives, as does a brother, Alexis, of Moscow. Her husband, Judge William Clark, died in 1957.

Sonia Tomara was born in St. Petersburg, now Leningrad. A graduate of Moscow University for Women, with a degree in chemical engineering, she left Russia in 1920 for Paris, where she wrote for various newspapers before joining the *Herald Tribune*.

After covering wars in India, China, North Africa and Europe, Sonia resigned from the *Tribune* to live in West Germany during her husband's tenure as chief justice of the Court of Appeals under the Allied High Commission.

Gregor Ziemer

Dr. Gregor Ziemer, who scored as an author, newspaper correspondent, radio commentator and educator, died Aug. 19. He was 83.

Among his books were "Two Thousand and Ten Days of Hitler" and "Education for Death - The Making of the Nazi," which was made into the movie "Hitler's Children."

With his wife, he founded the American Colony School of Berlin in 1928 and remained its headmaster until World War II. He was also Berlin correspondent for the *New York Herald*, the *London Daily Mail* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

During World War II he was correspondent with Patton's 4th Armored Division and a radio commentator for Radio Luxemburg. He later was a commentator for NBC affiliate stations.

He served, from 1946, as director of Town Hall of the Air. Later, he was PR director for the American Foundation for the Blind. In 1963 he moved to Los Angeles and became director of the Institute for Lifetime Learning. He was a past president of the American Public Relations Association.

Dr. Ziemer was born in Columbia, Mich., got his BA from the University of Illinois, his MA from Minnesota and his PhD from the University of Berlin.

He is survived by his wife, Edna, and a daughter, Patricia.

Occasion for the accompanying verse was Sonia's 85th birthday, when **Ruth Biemiller** visited Sonia at her home and presented her with a scarlet cyclamen from the OPC.

Thresholds: Princeton 2/10/82

*Sonia
in the doorway
Sonia
on her birthday
slender silver naiad
willowy in the doorway
looks through white birch clusters
down the long white lawn
to the frozen lake below.*

A scene from her girlhood when Leningrad was St. Petersburg?

*So long ago
did the Russian winter sunlight
bounce diamonds off a snowlawn?
ricochet from iceblue lake?
and the birches
lithe corps de ballet
limber up in a kindly wind?*

*Sonia on her birthday
waving in the doorway
hello goodbye she waves
hail and farewell.*

— Ruth Cobbett Biemiller

Hester Hensell is Back -- And So Are Movies

Hester Hensell, foreign correspondent, PR consultant, co-editor of a number of OPC books and founder of this *Bulletin*, is back from residing in California to living again in New York. Which is good news for all of us. Because Hester is back as chairman of our Screening Committee, which means we'll be going to the movies again.

Her first coup is to have a preview screening for us of the new Columbia film "Gandhi," date to be announced.

"Any members of the club who have known Gandhi," she says, "are invited to contact Stuart Zakim at Columbia Pictures, 751-4400, who can tie in with the movie's upcoming promotion."

Slavin Covering Asia

UPI's manager for West Asia, replacing the late Dale Morsch, is now Stewart Slavin. **Al Kaff**, VP and GM for Asia and the Pacific, says that Slavin, based in New Delhi, will supervise news coverage from the entire Asian subcontinent — India, Pakistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Irish Landscapes Still On View

Two hundred people jammed the lobby of the Overseas Press Club for the opening of the photo exhibit "Irish Landscapes" by Margaret McCarthy.

The show opened September 1, with a wine and cheese party, Irish music, and ebullient good spirits.

A special part of the evening occurred when Ms. McCarthy presented a photographic print to the Irish Consulate, represented by Michael Collins.

The photographs, dramatic studies of the Irish countryside, were captioned with excerpts from Joyce, Yeats and other Irish poets. The exhibit will be on view through October 30.

Placement

OPC member based in London with extensive background in hotels, travel and conventions, is available for special assignments throughout Europe. Bilingual in French, Spanish, German — and the son of one of OPC's distinguished feature-writers. Please send replies to Helen Alpert, OPC Placement, to be forwarded immediately.

New Members

ACTIVE RESIDENTS

Wendy Leigh
Paul Varian
James G. Wieghart

ACTIVE OVERSEAS

James T. Beirn

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Nat Kameny
Ernest M. Martin
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ACTIVE RESIDENT

Paula Hirth



OPC BULLETIN

Published throughout the year by the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc. Airmailed to members overseas, mailed 1st class to others.

Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, Rosalind Moore, Rosalind Massow, Charles J. Schreiber, Lawrence Stessin, Associate Editors.

They're Jailing Reporters the World Over

Persecution of journalists in many countries continues.

Here are summaries of cases issued by The Committee To Protect Journalists, Amnesty International, and the International Federation of Journalists:

Cuba: Fernando Rivas Porta, of the magazine *Bohemia*, and Luis Rodriguez, a reporter for the newspaper *El Pais*, languish in prison now more than 20 years.

Grenada: On June 19, 1982, the newspaper *Grenadian Voice* was closed. All printing equipment, typewriters, paper, even the sponge and roller for wetting stamps were seized. Publisher Alister Hughes, who also represents Caribbean News Service and Agence France Presse, is harrassed constantly, his telephone disconnected and auto impounded.

Iran: Terry Graham, 40-year-old American freelance journalist, was detained on December 8, 1981, has been in prison ever since. He was arts and culture reporter for the English-language *Teheran Daily* until it closed last year.

Pakistan: A military court sentenced Irshad Rao, editor and publisher of *Al-Fatah*, to another year in prison on charges of printing and disseminating subversive and anti-state literature. Rao remains in bad health, his eyesight deteriorating.

South Africa: Thami Mazwai, news editor of *The Sowetan*, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, in February, for refusing to give evidence against Khotso Seatlholo, a Soweto student leader. Cedric Mayson, former editor of *Pro Veritate*, arrested in November 1981, continues to be held.

Soviet Union: Literary critic Ivan Svetlichny, 52, arrested in January 1972, convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda," serving a 12-year sentence. Following a stroke and surgery, he is reported in critical condition.

Syria: Michel Khilo, writer, journalist, member of the board of the Union of Arab Workers, was arrested Oct. 5, 1980 because of articles critical of the government, especially its intervention in Lebanon.

Marwan Hamawi, director of the Syrian News Agency since 1974, has been detained in al-Mezze Prison in Damascus since April 2, 1975, on suspicion of collaboration with the Iraqi wing of the Ba'ath Party.

Taiwan: Lu Hsiu-lien, a former editor of *Formosa* magazine, is seriously ill while serving a 12-year sentence on charges of "seditious intent" and trying to "subvert the

government." U.S. medical experts say her symptoms suggest a recurrence of cancer and that her life may be in imminent danger. Lu Hsiu-lien worked for *Formosa*, an anti-military government publication, until her arrest in December 1979.

Thailand: Reports from Thailand indicate that journalism has become one of the most dangerous professions to practice in that country, as a result of gangsterism and official corruption. At least 20 journalists have been killed and 20 others attacked or wounded in the last three years; most were engaged in trying to expose corruption and smuggling rings. In January, Sumon Chungchua, a reporter for *Thai Rath*, Thailand's largest and most influential daily, was gunned down.

Uganda: Two U.S. reporters, Charles Powers of the *Los Angeles Times* and Robert Rosenthal of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, have accused Ugandan military authorities of arresting them without reason and beating them while in detention for two days this past May.

For more information on these cases contact: Committee to Protect Journalists, 36 W. 44th Street, N.Y.C. 10036.

— Norman A. Schorr, Co-Chairman
OPC Freedom of Press Committee

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE CLUB

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
52 East 41st Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

FIRST CLASS

Quotes and Notes

Observations by OPCer E.W. Williams, publisher of "Quick Frozen Foods International," after a business trip to Britain, Denmark and Sweden: "I found high optimism among top executives and marketing managers . . . But not everything is rosy. Unemployment is high and price cutting often severe . . . In many countries, as well as in the U.S., the gourmet type restaurants are quite busy, with reservations often needed. The fast food establishments are doing well, but the middle class restaurants seem to be less well patronized than those on the upper and lower ends . . . An indication of the recession is the plentitude of cabs in London's theatrical districts after the theater. In former times cabs were hard to find but today there are plenty; most people take the underground."

* * *

It is estimated that there are some 20 million Gay men and women in the U.S. There is a growing press to serve them. And now there is a trade paper to serve the Gay press. It is the *GP Reporter*, published six times a year from Staten Island. It is intended also to serve the straight press and advertising executives in helping them reach and understand the Gay community.

"Many media people are still unaware," the *Reporter* says, "that there are Gay organizations and institutions in every corner of the nation, including churches, synagogues, senior citizen groups, marching bands, choirs, athletic associations, business organizations, a Gay Press Association, a Gay Teachers Association, and even a federally-chartered savings and loan association."

